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DE RUEHCV #0326 0672126
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0763
INFO RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY

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date: 3/7/2008 21:26
refid: 08CARACAS326
origin: Embassy Caracas
classification: SECRET
destination: 08CARACAS293|08CARACAS308
header:

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S E C R E T CARACAS 000326

SIPDIS

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/05/2018
TAGS: [MCAP](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [CO](#) [VE](#)
SUBJECT: NO NEW TROOP MOVEMENTS REPORTED

REF: A. CARACAS 000293
[1](#)B. CARACAS 000308

Classified By: Robert Downes, Political Counselor,
for Reason 1.4(d)

[1](#)1. (S) No additional troop movements have been reported in the March 7 open press. Considering the distances from major bases such as Fuerte Paramaracay in Valencia and Carora barracks in Lara state, it is reasonable to assume that elements of the 41st Armored Brigade, such as the 413th "Pedro Leon Torres" Armored Battalion and the 412th "Bermudez" Armored Battalion are still en route to their forward garrison positions near the Colombian border. Wire service photographs indicate that AK-103 assault rifles, from the consignment of 100,000 purchased from Russia, have been issued to Army units. Based on open source and sensitive reporting, the Venezuelan army remains far from reaching its stated deployment of 10 battalions since numerous tanks and armored vehicles are still awaiting transport. There are unconfirmed rumors that there may be a public display of more troops deploying over the March 8-9 weekend.
DUDDY

=====CABLE ENDS=====